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PSRC-812  
LWX-002-827

27 August 1946

TO: AB-39, SSU/USFET  
FROM: AB-51, SSU/AMZON  
SUBJECT: Project Kuno WIRSICH  
REF: MSG-302

1. Request that you take the attached letter to the Chief, CIB/USFET, personally and draw his attention to the specific proposal made in para 8. We are anxious to make sure that in approving the project the Chief, CIB, has taken due note of the fact that in using the name of General McNarney the project is liable to take on distinctly political implications, although the actual forwarding of GOLDFHAMMER's plea to the General, as conceived by us, is notional in character only. In other words, we do not propose to let the letter get into military channels where, as we fully realize, it would have to be passed on to the General for reply.

2. In case the Chief, CIB, should take exception to seeing General McNarney's name used, we suggest that the approval of the project be qualified accordingly. GOLDFHAMMER's plea is not considered by us to be an essential feature of the project, although it would aid materially in starting it off on a high-level plane.

*Downgraded to Secret  
per authority of [ ]  
EE/KIG - 23 Feb 54  
JSCG [ ]*

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PSRO-312  
LWX-002-827

26 August 1946

**SUBJECT:** Project Kuno WIRSICH  
**TO :** Chief, CIB/USFET  
**THROUGH:** Captain E. O'Neal, SSU/USFET  
**FROM :** Mr. Henry D. Hecksher, Chief SC, AMZON  
**REF :** MSC-302

1. The following project is herewith submitted for your approval.

2) It is planned to penetrate the intelligence service of the KPD in Bavaria, in particular to determine its relation to Soviet intelligence. In order to attain this objective, we require the services of Kuno WIRSICH, former SS Hauptsturmführer, at present under detention at the CIE Nuremberg-Langwasser.

3) WIRSICH joined the Allgemeine SS in August 1933. His participation in SS activities was on instructions from a Communist underground cell, collecting intelligence in Germany for the Communist Party. His specific assignment was to penetrate and gather information on the SS for the cell-leader, one Walter COHN. COHN, who resides in France, was recently questioned by our Paris representative and has fully confirmed WIRSICH's story; so did COHN's assistant, Miss Dora Thiele DOHMANN, resident of Lauf/Pegnitz (Bavaria).

4. WIRSICH claims to have entered the Communist underground because Communism was to him an expression of liberalism and anti-Nazism, and because he is and always will be a firm believer in "an absolute equality of men." He does not believe, however, that the German expression of Communism as spelled out by the KPD, should be either Soviet-sponsored or Soviet-directed. We have no reason to believe that if he continues adhering to that philosophy, any difficulties will be encountered by us in keeping him under our control.

5. Subject project was first conceived in July 1945, last year, when WIRSICH was under interrogation at the 3rd Army Interrogation Center, Freising (Bavaria). The following interrogation Reports have been published on WIRSICH: Third Army Det., Report No. 19 (16 May 45), No. 20 (17 May 45), No. 21 (20 May 45), TUSA IC, Report No. 14 (6 July 45).

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6. In August 1945 the vetting of WIRSICH had been completed and the project to use him as a penetration agent against the KPD had been approved by the Chief/CIP. On 25 August he was released into the custody of the Munich SCI Detachment. Pending his commitment by us WIRSICH was loaned to the Ministerial Collection Center, then at Kassel, for work on SS documents which had been recovered with his assistance. When in Spring 1946 the Ministerial Collection Center was wound up and its documents were transferred to Berlin, WIRSICH was interned as an automatic arrestee. This move was not apposed by us at the time, inasmuch as a reduction of our staff necessitated a retrenchment in operations.

7. In resuming this operation, we envisage the following measures, designed to enable WIRSICH to ease his way back into the KPD. Once released from internment, de-nazification proceedings would have to be initiated. WIRSICH would be ~~in~~ instructed by us to use the local KPD in clearing "his good name." His chances to obtain the active support of the local KPD are excellent. His close friend, Dr. Wolf PRIEDEL, is the lawyer for the local KPD secretary, Bruno GOLDEHAMMER. The latter is reported to have stated that he is "vitaly interested in clearing WIRSICH in order to prove that we (i.e. the Communists) take care of our own people."

8. Provided you approve this project, we propose the following immediate steps to be taken:

a) We shall suggest, through a cut-out, to GOLDEHAMMER that he address a plea of clemency in WIRSICH's behalf to General McNarney.

b) We shall offer, again through a cut-out, to have this plea taken direct to General McNarney.

c) Shortly after GOLDEHAMMER's letter has been delivered to us, the Chief, CIP/USFET, will authorize WIRSICH's release from the internment camp, so as to make it appear that GOLDEHAMMER's letter turned the trick.

9. In case you approve WIRSICH's release, it will be understood that he is in our personal custody.

10) A detailed, more specific project will be submitted to you in due time after WIRSICH's release. The intelligence produced by this operation will, of course, be at the disposal of CIB/USFET.

11) We would appreciate an early decision, in view of the priority importance of getting more and accurate information

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on the target assigned to this operation.

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**Distribution:**

- 1 - Chief, CIB/USFET
- 1 - Capt O'Neal, SSU/USFET
- 1 - SSU/London
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